3432 e 03

Ministry of the Environment

1999 - 2000 Business Plan

Ministry of the Environment home page
Adobe Acrobat PDF version available

Contents:

Message from the Minister
Ministry Vision
Core Businesses
Annual Report On Key Achievements For 1998 - 1999
Key Commitments And Strategies For 1999 - 2000
Key Performance Measures
1998 - 1999 Ministry Spending By Core Business — Actuals
1999 - 2000 Ministry Approved Allocations By Core Business — Plan
Who To Call

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hon. Tony Clement

A healthy environment is the foundation of a healthy and prosperous population. We at the Ministry of the Environment remain steadfast in our commitment to providing strong environmental protection and to promoting the conservation and stewardship of our air, water and land. Carrying out these core businesses effectively helps make Ontario an attractive place to live, work and do business.

As Minister of the Environment, I am pleased to share with you our 1999-2000 business plan, which outlines some of our achievements from the past year, as well as our commitments and targets to further improve and protect the health of our ecosystems. Although preventing pollution before it happens remains our starting point, a big part of our job is to enforce Ontario's environmental laws effectively. The new *Environmental Statute Law Amendment Act* strengthens our ability to enforce laws while increasing penalties for those who choose to ignore them. It is upon this foundation that we will build the most effective enforcement of environmental protection in North America, through the creation of an environmental SWAT team and introduction of legislation that imposes some of the strictest pollution penalties in Canada.

This past year has yielded a number of other key environmental accomplishments, including unprecedented actions to improve our air quality. When fully implemented, the Drive Clean program will reduce smog-related emissions from vehicles by up to 22 per cent in program areas, and greenhouse gas emissions by over 200,000 tonnes annually. Updated air standards, vigorous enforcement of these

standards, and significant investments to improve our monitoring and analysis capabilities will further protect our families from the hazards of air pollution. Other improvements will be realized through strict environmental protection measures that will be built into the design of a competitive electricity market.

Just as important to public health is the quality of our water resources. The ministry has worked hand-in-hand with community groups, companies, individuals and other levels of government, to improve our Great Lakes. These efforts, combined with the work of the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, are paying off – the Great Lakes are now cleaner than they have been in 50 years. Across the Province, there have been fewer beach closures and fish consumption advisories. Fish and wildlife habitat have improved, and the release of toxic chemicals from industrial direct discharges have been greatly reduced. We have taken firm action to protect and conserve our water resources, both surface and groundwater, by prohibiting the large-scale transfer or diversion of water out of designated Ontario water basins. While this momentum toward improved air and water quality continues, emerging issues like climate change pose new challenges. In its 1999 Budget, the Ontario government announced the dedication of $10 million to analyse the issues climate change presents for our environment and economy. This new funding will help secure Ontario's position within national and international climate change processes, while building on actions already underway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

More than ever, we will look to our many partners and to the people of Ontario to work alongside our environmental protection and conservation efforts. By working together, I am confident we can ensure a healthy environment and prosperous province for current and future generations of Ontarians.

The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of the Environment

MINISTRY VISION

The vision of the Ministry of the Environment is an Ontario where human health, recreation, commerce and industry are sustained by clean air, water and land.

To fulfil this vision, the ministry sets clear policies, standards and rules to protect the environment and to encourage conservation activities. Along with monitoring the environment and enforcing these rules, the ministry looks for innovative approaches to complement regulations. This includes building partnerships with communities, industries and organizations to find flexible, practical, cost-effective ways to strengthen environmental protection and conservation efforts.

A healthy, natural environment is vital to the well-being of our families and to the province's ability to attract investment and jobs.

We play an important role in making this province the best jurisdiction in North America in which to live work, and raise a family by providing better, stronger and clearer environmental protection.

CORE BUSINESSES

Environmental Protection

The ministry is in the business of safeguarding our environment by working to ensure cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner land and healthier ecosystems for the health and welfare of all Ontarians.

We establish standards that protect human health and the environment, and develop policies and guidelines to implement these standards. We establish and enforce legislation and regulations to ensure the environment is protected. By monitoring trends in environmental quality and applying sound science, technology and research we are able to determine the effectiveness of our programs and the risks of pollution on human health and the natural environment.

We coordinate responses to environmental incidents and enforce the rules that protect our air, water and land – ensuring that polluters clean up the damage they have caused.

We also work in partnership with others to prevent pollution and to achieve common environmental objectives by inviting industry, municipalities, communities, organizations, academia, and individuals to find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Conservation and Stewardship

The ministry is also in the business of encouraging environmentally sustainable use of water, land, energy and material resources. This means maximizing efficient use of resource materials and becoming better stewards of the environment.

We all benefit from these efforts. Environmental damage caused by pollution is prevented, the life of non-renewable resources is extended and the economy and taxpayers benefit by more efficient use of available resources and reduced costs to consumers and industry.

We continue to rely on partnerships with industry, municipalities, communities, organizations, academia, and individuals to achieve our conservation and stewardship targets. By providing guidance, we can reduce pollutants and waste, save energy and conserve water.

We also continue to help promote Ontario's green industry sector and to encourage development of new environmental technologies and innovative solutions to conservation issues.

ANNUAL REPORT ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 1998 - 1999

Cleaner air and strong enforcement continued to be top priorities for the Ministry of the Environment. During the past year, we established a number of new programs, enacted key legislation and made real progress in improving ministry programs and day-to-day activities.

Ontario's Drive Clean, one of the most comprehensive vehicle emissions testing programs in North America, is up-and-running. During 1998, the ministry established a public call centre, developed partnerships with auto repair facilities, set requirements for training and quality assurance/quality control and launched a public awareness and educational campaign.

Drive Clean is complemented by: the Smog Patrol, which targets grossly-polluting vehicles; the Smog Rover, which monitors vehicle emissions and promotes awareness of smog-related issues; and Partners in Air, which gives high school students an opportunity to conduct air monitoring and gain first-hand knowledge about air quality.

Ontario's Anti-Smog Action Plan brings together a broad cross-section of sectors to reduce smog-causing

emissions by 45 per cent by 2015. During 1998, when the Plan was first announced, a steering committee was created to identify ways to reduce smog emissions. Draft performance agreements were developed with the organic chemical and automobile manufacturing sectors. Six new partners signed on to the Smog Accord.

We are also upgrading environmental standards for a variety of contaminants. In 1998, stronger, more modern standards for six airborne pollutants were implemented, including styrene, formaldehyde, ethylene dichloride, carbon tetrachloride, acetaldehyde and 1-4, dichlorobenzene, with three more awaiting implementation and 18 draft standards under development.

Strong environmental protection measures are being built into Ontario's new competitive electricity market. The ministry continues to consult with stakeholders on proposals to: place caps on smog and acid gas emissions for Ontario generators; set emission performance standards for all generators who wish to sell their product in the Ontario electricity market; establish monitoring and reporting requirements for the electricity sector; and establish regulations under the Environmental Assessment Act to ensure strong and fair environmental protection.

We are strengthening our ability to enforce, and ensure compliance with, Ontario's environmental rules. The *Environmental Statute Law Amendment Act* – proclaimed February 1, 1999 – clarifies the rules that protect Ontario's air, water and land. The act gives us important new enforcement tools and provides for increased penalties for environmental offenders. The act is fair to those who meet Ontario's environmental requirements and tough on those who do not.

The ministry is working to ensure that Ontarians have a safe, clean supply of drinking water and efficient infrastructure for treating water and sewage. The ministry committed $200 million under the Provincial Water Protection Fund to assist municipalities experiencing health and/or environmental problems related to water and sewage treatment. The fund covers construction projects, and studies related to system optimization, the environment, groundwater management and the state of Ontario's water and sewage infrastructure. We provided funding and technical assistance for six municipal water plant optimization projects to meet Ontario's lower drinking water guideline for trihalomethanes (a by-product of chlorination). We are on track to meeting our target of transferring the 230 provincially-owned water and sewage systems to municipalities. In addition, four drinking water objectives were developed for chloramines, cyanide, tetrachloroethylene, and 1,1 - dichloroethylene. Water treatment facilities are meeting our health-related drinking water objectives at an impressive rate of more than 98 per cent.

Alongside these drinking water protection measures, the ministry also acts to protect the ecosystem. Eight surface water quality objectives were consulted on and as a result, six objectives (trivalent chromium, hexavalent chromium, carbaryl, molybdenum, vanadium and NDMA) were strengthened, two are being finalized for cadmium and arsenic and a number of new objectives are being developed. In addition, the major industrial sectors regulated under the Municipal-Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) made significant reductions in the discharge of contaminants.

Thanks to the efforts of many community groups, industries, and governments working together, the Great Lakes are cleaner than they have been for decades. The ministry continues working with its Remedial Action Plan partners to complete cleanup and restoration projects at Spanish Harbour and Collingwood Harbour. Cleanup plans are nearing completion for Peninsula Harbour, Jackfish Bay and Nipigon Bay. The government incorporated the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation and provided a $5 million contribution for restoration, as well as for public education projects and research, in the Great Lakes basin. As part of our continuing efforts to monitor sport fish in the Great Lakes and issue consumption restrictions when necessary, the ministry published the 1999-2000 Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish.

Progress is being made to ensure cleaner lands and healthier ecosystems. Landfill standards were strengthened, bringing clear and specific rules for the design, operation and closure of new or expanding non-hazardous waste landfills. Rules were established for air emission control, groundwater and surface water protection, site monitoring, record keeping and reporting and contingency planning for leachate control.

Thirty-five per cent less non-hazardous waste was sent for disposal (compared to 1987). We are increasing our efforts to achieve 50 per cent waste reduction. The ministry introduced a Waste Diversion Plan to ensure the long-term viability of the Blue Box program. The plan will give municipalities the tools to improve and reduce the cost of their recycling programs, and to develop, implement and fund municipal initiatives to increase diversion.

Our conservation and stewardship initiatives are meeting with success. More than 18,000 tonnes of toxic substances and wastes were reduced through such voluntary pollution prevention partnerships as the Pollution Prevention Program. Reductions in toxic substances and waste under this program, as of March 31, 1998 totalled 392,150 tonnes (base year - 1996). We also partnered with industry associations to provide guidance to companies looking to adopt environmental management systems.

We have improved customer service by speeding up processing and approval times. For example, we modernized the *Environmental Assessment Act* and made changes that reduce the average turnaround time for air emission approvals by 15 per cent to 60 days..

KEY COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR 1999 - 2000

The ministry's key strategies for 1999-2000 have been more closely aligned to support the delivery of our core businesses of protecting the environment and promoting the conservation and stewardship of the province's resources. These strategies will guide our commitment so that we can continue to build on last year's successes.

To build a better, stronger, clearer environmental agenda in keeping with our statement of environmental values

The ministry's mandate, articulated in the statement of environmental values (SEV) that underpins all its activities, is to protect the quality of the natural environment so as to safeguard the ecosystem and human health and to foster the efficient use and conservation of resources. The SEV's guiding principles are:

- to consider the whole ecosystem,
- to focus on prevention of pollutants that cause environmental damage, and
- to encourage conservation and sustainable use of resources.

The SEV influences every aspect of our decision-making, internal management practices and approach to public participation.

Environmental Protection

To provide stronger deterrents to polluters and to address issues that pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment

The ministry will continue to focus on finding solutions to problems that pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment. This means that our commitment to ensuring cleaner air remains a high

priority.

On April 1, 1999, Ontario's Drive Clean program for mandatory vehicle inspection and maintenance of passenger vehicles came into effect in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Wentworth areas, targeting one of the largest local sources of smog-causing pollutants. The light duty program will spread to 13 other urban areas and commuting zones in 2001. The heavy duty program for trucks and buses was launched on September 30, 1999 with province-wide diesel testing and non-diesel testing in the same areas as passenger vehicles. When fully implemented in 2001, the Drive Clean program is expected to reduce nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds by 62,000 tonnes, particulate emissions by 220 tonnes, and greenhouse gas emissions by over 200,000 tonnes annually.

Other reductions to smog and acid gas-causing emissions will be realized through strict environmental protection measures that are being built into the design of Ontario's competitive electricity market. This will include limits on acid gas and smog-causing emissions and disclosure requirements for all retailers selling electricity in Ontario.

In May 1999, the Ontario government dedicated $10 million to develop the next wave of provincial climate change actions. This new funding will ensure Ontario's interests and concerns are adequately addressed within national and international climate change processes, while building on actions already under way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To ensure clean drinking water is available to all Ontarians, the ministry will accelerate payments under the Provincial Water Protection Fund. Acceleration of this key grant program will help municipalities to move forward and take over full accountability for their water and sewage projects. The fund continues to help communities experiencing immediate health and/or environmental problems related to water or sewage treatment to ensure compliance with ministry regulations.

The ministry will also continue activities to clean the Great Lakes ecosystem including Remedial Action Plan sites.

Working together with other ministries and agencies, the ministry will coordinate a scientific and policy review of issues surrounding water quantity and quality. Our goal is to develop a framework for water policy decision-making equipped to guide us in the 21st Century.

An additional $2 million investment in the ministry's environmental monitoring, analysis and data collection infrastructures will enhance our ability to evaluate emerging environmental trends, track the compliance of industry with environmental laws, and assess the effectiveness of current and future ministry programs.

The ministry will continue to focus on deterring polluters. The *Environmental Statute Law Amendment Act*, passed February 1, 1999, provides for increased penalties and jail terms for polluters and introduced the authority to put in place a program of administrative monetary penalties. We will continue our efforts to strengthen Ontario's environmental protection legislation to ensure a clear, comprehensive and easily enforced set of environmental laws.

We will back these laws with some of the strictest penalties in the country, doubling the maximum fines for a first offence for major polluters and setting tougher reporting and inspection standards for corporate executives and directors who might be tempted to break the law. Repeat offenders will face doubled maximum fines and the toughest jail terms in the country.

Work is also underway to establish an environmental SWAT team – a specialized group of ministry staff

that will audit industries to make sure they're obeying the rules. We will also develop and promote a toll-free pollution hotline for Ontarians to report possible acts of pollution.

An action plan will be established to strengthen the ministry's hazardous waste regulation and the requirements for hazardous waste facilities. This will include revising the regulation to make it the toughest in Ontario's history and to ensure better harmonization with other jurisdictions.

Conservation and Stewardship

To involve Ontarians and other jurisdictions in protecting Ontario's environment

In support of its core businesses of conservation and stewardship, the ministry will promote more stakeholder and public involvement by focussing on individual and community actions, and on partnerships with industry and others to achieve sustainable use and conservation of resources.

One example of this is the ministry's plan – announced in October 1998 – to expand and improve the Blue Box program in order to achieve the province's waste reduction target. The plan is based on voluntary contributions by industries, including the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, whose waste products are collected through municipal Blue Box programs. The plan calls for establishment of a waste diversion organization in 1999 that will be made up of industrial, municipal and non-governmental representatives. It will develop a long-term sustainability strategy for the Blue Box program and for other municipal waste reduction targets such as centralized composting, and disposal of tires, used oil, paint and household hazardous waste.

The ministry will work with individuals and stakeholders to secure their involvement in finding effective solutions to environmental priorities.

To focus on customer service

Customer service is important to this ministry. We will continue to seek opportunities to improve the turnaround time for ministry approvals, make our organization more efficient; boost performance and enhance delivery of programs by sharing common services between ministries; and put in place innovative information technologies. As part of the *Quality Service Initiative*, the ministry will undertake a comprehensive review and comparison of its organizational practices against a world-class organizational model of quality service criteria.

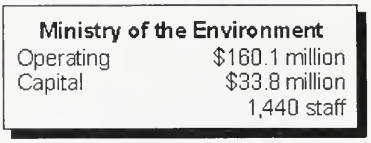
KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

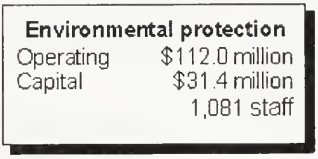
Core Business: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
Goals/Outcomes	**Measures**	**Targets/Standards**	**1999-2000 Commitment**
Cleaner air	Number of days that air quality is rated moderate to very good	Measured improvements in the percentage of moderate to very good air quality days by the year 2015 (1998 base year) (% improvement based on a five-year rolling average)	Track five year rolling average (1995-1999 divided by 5) of air quality trends - Year 1 Launch actions which, by the year 2006, will lead to emission reductions consistent with the

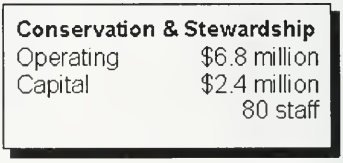
			Anti-Smog Action Plan targets Actions will include: • expanding Drive Clean to include heavy-duty vehicles province-wide • increase program area for light-duty vehicles • requiring large industrial boilers to abide by more rigorous emission standards • increasing the number of large industries that the ministry will require to undertake air emissions inventories and following up to ensure that these industries reduce their emissions where necessary
Cleaner water	Quality of drinking water	Provision of good quality drinking water to all Ontario residents served by municipal water supplies	Municipal water supplies meet Ontario's health-related standards for drinking water
	Quality of water	Measured improvements in the percentage of Ontario's assessed surface waters where water quality is rated moderate to very good	Finalize a water quality index for Ontario Establish a water quality scale for ranking index values (good, moderate, etc.) Translate baseline water quality data into index values
	Quality of water	Percentage of sport fish consumption restrictions in the Great Lakes reduced by 10% by the year 2010 (1995 base - 589 restrictions or 33.9% restricted)	Ongoing monitoring of sport fish in the Great Lakes Distribute The 1999-2000 Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish to the public and provide consumption advice
	Effectiveness of water and sewage infrastructure	Improvement of 72 water and sewage systems, in partnership with 59 municipalities, to address human health and	Ensure that the implementation of 72 water and sewage system projects funded under Provincial Water Protection Fund will

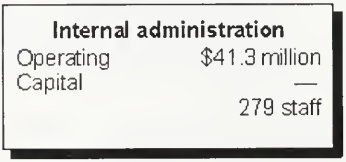
		environmental concerns by the year 2001	be 40% completed in 1999-2000
Cleaner land	Destruction of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)	Destruction of 50% of high level PCBs in storage by the year 2000 (compared to the 1994 base year quantity of 18,600 tonnes)	45% of the high level PCBs in storage will have been destroyed by the end of 1998 (compared to the 1994 base year quantity of 18,600 tonnes)
Healthier ecosystems	Streamlining of ministry decision-making processes (This efficiency measure supports the majority of other high-end measures)	Reduction in the average turnaround times for air emission Certificates of Approval by 30% (baseline of 70 days) Reduction in the average turnaround times for ministerial decisions on environmental assessments by 65% (baseline of 22 months)	Achieve an average turnaround time of 55 days Achieve an average turnaround time of 7.5 months for applications received after December 31, 1998
Core Business: CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP			
Resource conservation	Reductions in non-hazardous waste going to disposal	Continuous improvement towards 50% reduction from the base year of 1987	Reduce non-hazardous waste going to disposal in 1998 by 38%, relative to 1987
Environmental stewardship	Participation of stakeholders	Reduction of 60,000 tonnes of toxic substances and wastes, beyond regulatory requirements, by the year 2003 through ministry partnerships (base year 1999)	Reduce 12,000 tonnes of toxic substances and wastes through partnerships

1998 - 1999 MINISTRY SPENDING BY CORE BUSINESS — ACTUALS*









* PSAB based.

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full time equivalents.
Staff numbers exclude Ontario Clean Water Agency.

1999 - 2000 MINISTRY APPROVED ALLOCATIONS BY CORE BUSINESS — PLAN*

* PSAB based.

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full time equivalents.
Staff numbers exclude Ontario Clean Water Agency.

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the ministry's business plan are welcomed and should be addressed to:

Corporate Management Division
Carmen Gauthier (416-314-7370) (fax: 416-314-7858)
Director, Business and Fiscal Planning Branch
40 St. Clair Avenue West, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2

Integrated Environmental Planning Division
Brian Nixon (416-314-7020) (fax: 416-314-7200)
Director, Land Use Policy Branch
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Environmental Sciences and Standards Division
Ed Piché (416-235-6160) (fax: 416-235-6235)
Director, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch
125 Resources Road, West Wing
Toronto, ON M9P 3V6

Operations Division

Brian Ward (613-548-6901) (fax: 613-548-6911)
Eastern Region, Kingston Regional Office
133 Dalton Avenue, P.O. Box 820
Kingston, ON K7L 4X6

Minister's Office

135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
(phone: 416-314-6790)
(fax: 416-314-6748)

Communications Branch

Anne Edwards (416-314-6657) (fax 416-314-6713)
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 2nd Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Additional copies of this document can be obtained by calling the ministry's Public Information Centre at (416)325-4000 or toll free at 1-800-565-4923, or by visiting the ministry's Web site at www.ene.gov.on.ca

Copies of this document are available free from:

Publications Ontario,
880 Bay Street, Toronto ON M7A 1N8. Tel: (416) 326-5300
Out-of-town customers except Ottawa call: 1-800-668-9938
In Ottawa, call (613) 238-3630 or toll-free 1-800-268-8758
Telephone service for the hearing impaired is available
toll-free throughout Ontario at 1-800-268-7095

Order copies via the Internet at http://www.publications.gov.on.ca

Obtain an electronic copy of this document at http://www.gov.on.ca

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 1999
ISBN 0-7778-8758-4

Ce document est disponible en français

| Top | Related Documents |
| Ministry of the Environment home page |

| central site | feedback | search | site map | français |
| what's new | Ontario government sites | business links | travel and tourism links | faq |

Ontario
This site maintained by the Government of Ontario, Canada

Technical inquiries to: webmaster@gov.on.ca

Copyright information: © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 1999 Last Modified: December 21, 1999